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June 29, 2004

File No. 1141.24

CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope, addressed to MAIL STOP DD, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the following date: June 29, 2004.


Wendy K. B. Buskop

MAIL STOP DD
Commissioner of Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RE: *U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/766,251;*
Title: "Method for Lowering an Object to an Underwater Installation Site Using a ROV;"
Inventors: Joop Roodenburg and Jacobus Hoogeweff.

Sirs:

Enclosed for filing in the above-mentioned application is:

- (1) An Information Disclosure Statement;
- (2) A Form PTO-1449 listing references A1-A3 and B1;
- (3) Copy of reference B1; and
- (4) A postcard. Please date stamp and return the enclosed postcard to evidence receipt of these materials.

BUSKOP LAW GROUP, P.C.

Information Disclosure Statement Transmittal
Application Serial No. 10/766,251

Attorney Docket No. 1141.24
Page 2 of 2

No fees are believed to be due in connection with these materials. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No 50-1313 in the name of Buskop Law Group. A duplicate copy of this transmittal is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Joop Roodenburg and
Jacobus Hoogeweff

Serial No.: 10/766,251

Filed: January 28, 2004

For: Method for Lowering an Object to an
Underwater Installation Site Using an ROV

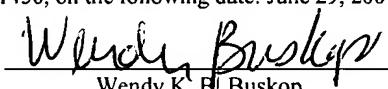
Group Art Unit: 3673

Examiner: Not Assigned

Atty Dkt No.: 1141.24

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Wendy K. Buskop

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

- I. Applicants hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement and encloses a Form PTO-1449 listing references A1-A13 and B1 for consideration by the Examiner. Copies of each listed reference are not enclosed. However enclosed is reference B1.
- II. Applicants hereby request the Examiner to consider each cited reference. As required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)(i), the following are concise explanations of the relevance of each reference, as they are presently understood:

REFERENCE A1 (US 5,069,580 – Herwig): “Improved methods and apparatus are provided for landing and securing a payload to a subsea assembly, such as a hydrocarbon recovery assembly, utilizing a surface vessel and a subsea ROV. The payload is suspended from a submersible payload package, and the package and payload are lowered subsea by a vessel cable. Guide cables extending from the package may be secured to the subsea assembly, and a floatation device thereafter activated to render the package positively buoyant, thereby making the guide cables taunt and relaxing the vessel cable to de-couple the package and payload from the surface vessel. The guide cables are then used to lower the payload from the package onto the assembly, and the payload secured to the assembly with the ROV. The floatation device is subsequently deactivated such that the pacakage is no longer positively buoyant, thereby re-coupling the package to the surface vessel.”

REFERENCE A2 (US 5,190,107 – Langner): “A heave compensating support system is disclosed for positioning a subsea work package. The present invention provides a subsurface buoy with a lift line connected to the subsea work package and a compensating lift line having a catenary loop below its connection to the subsurface buoy on one end and connected to a surface vessel on the other end, whereby the heave compensating support system elements cooperate to establish a natural frequency for the suspended subsea work package which materially differs from the average wave frequency acting upon the surface vessel.”

REFERENCE A3 (US 6,588,985 – Bernard): “A method and an apparatus, for deploying an object or a load on the seabed, the object or the load being coupled to a hoist, such as a hoisting wire in order to enable the object or the load to be lowered to the seabed from a vessel, the apparatus including a body having parts for releasably securing the object or the load to the body and propulsion for moving the body when submerged, whereby the propulsion is positioned offset from the parts for releasably securing the object or the load, in order to be able to induce rotational control on the hoist, when the propulsion is in use.”

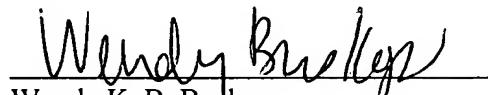
REFERENCE B1 (GB 2 277 949):

"A method of and apparatus for transporting an object to an underwater location is described. The apparatus comprises a floating submersible structure 1 having a pay load area 5. The structure 1 comprises ballast tanks 3, 4 which may be filled with or emptied of ballast to alter the buoyancy of the submersible structure 1. Pulling means 6 is mounted on the structure 1 and connection means 10 are provided for coupling the structure 1 to the bottom of the body of water (23, fig 4b). The connection means 10 engages the pulling means 6 and the pulling means 6 is adapted to pull the submersible structure 1 to the bottom by pulling on the connection means 10 when the connection means is coupled to the bottom e.g. by the provision of anchors (27)."

- III. No fees are believed to be due in connection with these materials. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to receipt of an official Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 29, 2004



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Form PTO 1449	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office			Serial No.: 10/766,251	Group Art Unit: 3673		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)				Filing Date: January 28, 2004			
				Applicant(s): Joop Roodenburg and Jacobus Hoogeweff			
				Atty. Docket No.: 1141.24			
A REFERENCE - U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Document Number	Examiner Initial*	Patent Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
A1		5,069,580	12/03/91	Herwig	405	191	09/25/90
A2		5,190,107	03/02/93	Langner	166	355	03/13/92
A3		6,588,985	07/08/03	Bernard	405	191	04/26/99
B REFERENCE - FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Document Number	Examiner Initial*	Patent Number	Date Of Filing	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation
							Yes No
B1		GB 2277949	12/05/94	Great Britain	B63B	35/44	X
C REFERENCE - OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pages, Etc.)							
Document Number	Examiner Initial*	Other Documents Citation					
C1							
Examiner:			Date Considered:				
*Examiner:	Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.						